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ADDRESS

OF THE

RHODE ISLAND
SOCIETY OF CINCINNATI

TO

GEORGE WASHINGTON

AND

HIS ANSWER

1797.

Brooklyn, N. Y.
Privately Printed
1885.

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The Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati to George Washington, President of the United States —

Sir

In looking forward to the period which is intended to terminate the career of your public life, our feelings will not permit us to suspend the deep acknowledgements of that debt of gratitude which is your due from a Country to whose Independence and Happiness you have so essentially contributed. The interesting scene of your intended retirement

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revives in the minds of our fellow Citizens in general the many proofs of eminent wisdom and unshaken patriotism displayed in the field, the glory of which can be eclipsed only by the innumerable evidence of your firm, enlightened, and uniform attachment to republican and constitutional principles displayed in your political transactions.

While testimonies of respectful affection and grateful attachment are arising to you from every part of the union, a similar attention from a Society of Citizens who have "laid down in peace Arms assumed for the public defence," cannot be unacceptable on this occasion.

By this address we do not think of adding anything to the lustre of a

Character composed of an assemblage of the most eminent public and private virtues, a Character who like bodies highly polished, may attract, but as readily eludes the envenomed shafts of envy; and which the virtuous can *only* admire,

We do but attempt to express the honest feelings of every member of the Sociey, in whose behalf we address you, when we say that we extremely regret the occasion of a retirement dictated by reasons which must silence every objection to the measure.— In that retirement may you meet all that tranquility and happiness you so ardently desire, and enjoy all the blessings of private and domestic life; There may you still live to receive the rich harvest of

your labours and services in the peace and prosperity of your Country, in the fervent affection of your fellow Citizens, the applause of an Admiring World and the higher Pleasures of an approving conscience. May your lengtheningd ays still extend your usefulness and your setting Sun shine with undiminished lustre till a reward more than Man can give shall be yours.

Impressed with these sentiments, and actuated by the pleasing sensibility of personal affection and gratitude, Respected Sir, we bid you Adieu

Enos Hitchcock
Jere'h Olney
Jno. Dexter
William Allen

Ephraim Bowen, Jun.
Thomas Smart
Dan. L. Dexter
Sam'l Snow

Providence, Febr. 25th. 1797.

To the Members of the Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati—

Gentlemen

For your affectionate Address on my retiring from public life I beg you to accept my grateful acknowledgements, and be assured that no circumstance can tend more to sweeten the few remaining years of my life, then the pleasing remembrance of my services having been appoved by those who have partici-

pated in the arduous struggle to establish our Independence, or to regulate the important Era of our Civil affairs.

In bidding you Adieu, I pray that the best of Heavens blessings may rest upon you

Go. Washington.

Philadelphia. 6th. Mar. 1797.

Elzebir Press.
100 Copies Printed
No. 71

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